

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

My name is Venus Usher. I am writing to you before tomorrow's vote because I need you to hear from someone whose life was changed by natural kratom.

For 17 years I lived in severe chronic pain caused by FDA-approved medications. I was misdiagnosed, dismissed, and even sent to rehab when doctors did not believe my pain was real. I lost years of my life. I lost my independence. I lost hope.

Natural kratom gave me my life back.

It allowed me to manage my pain without destroying my body. It allowed me to get out of bed. It allowed me to function, to think clearly, to participate in my own life again. I am not a criminal. I am not an addict. I am a person who found relief when the medical system failed me.

When you regulate or restrict something like kratom, you are not just passing policy. You are affecting real people like me who rely on it to live with dignity, to have quality of life.

I support keeping natural kratom legal for responsible adults. I support age limits and reasonable regulations. What I fear is overreach that punishes people who are simply trying to survive chronic pain safely.

Freedom matters. The freedom to choose a plant that has helped me reclaim my quality of life matters. Please do not take that away from people who already suffer enough.

I am asking you to protect access to natural kratom while addressing any concerns about synthetic products separately.

Please remember that behind every ordinance are human beings. We all have someone in our lives that plain leaf tea would help. Follow the science and share the info. Stop someone else's suffering, give them their dignity back.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Venus Usher

New Castle, De

302-983-3265

My Story: <https://share.google/FmmBi7LTUucD1NZQD>